

Ballarat International Foto Bien



Annual Giving

ballaratfoto.org

**The Ballarat International Foto Biennale
acknowledges the Wadawurrung people of
the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians
of the land on which we live, work and create.**

**We pay our respects to Elders past and
present, and honour the deep traditions of
storytelling, culture and connection held by
First Nations peoples across Australia.**

Chair's Message

Since its inception in 2005, the Ballarat International Foto Biennale has grown from a regional showcase into a 60-day festival that transforms the cityscape with captivating imagery, making it a cornerstone of Australia's photographic art scene now entering its third decade.

Set against the backdrop of Ballarat's rich history and vibrant laneways, the Biennale continues to draw visitors into a dynamic gallery of Australian and international talent, regularly presenting works making their Australian premiere. Each edition expands the program in response to our audience's evolving curiosity and the creativity of our contributors.

The enduring support of philanthropists who share our vision for enriching cultural life has been central to everything we have built. With your continued generosity, we can deepen the Biennale's reach, nurture emerging photographers, and craft programs that are genuinely accessible to all.

I am thrilled to share that Stage One of the National Centre for Photography is complete – housed in Ballarat's beautifully restored former Union Bank building on Bath Lane. This landmark achievement marks a new chapter: a year-round home for visual storytelling and an educational platform for generations to come.

The Centre is already redefining how we engage with art and imagery, fostering connections that reach far beyond the festival season. By uniting individuals, businesses and artists, we are catalysing social and economic growth in Ballarat and creating a cultural destination of national significance.

Now, with Stage One complete, we turn our attention to Stage Two – and we need your help to bring this vision to its fullest realisation. Stage Two will deepen the Centre's capacity to commission new works, expand its education programs, and entrench Ballarat's place on the global cultural map. I invite you to be part of this next chapter through your patronage, participation, or both.

Together, we are shaping a future where creativity thrives and our community is enriched for generations.

Alicia Linley

Chair, Ballarat International Foto Biennale



Annual Giving

An annual gift will place you at the forefront of exhibitions, programs and events at the Ballarat International Foto Biennale. You will join a group of dedicated supporters who are passionate about photography from Australia and around the world.

Giving annually will enable you to:

- Play a significant role in the growth of the organisation's programs and activities.
- Belong to an exclusive group of like-minded donors with a strong connection to the Ballarat International Foto Biennale.
- Be the first to learn about our exciting exhibitions, plans and developments.
- Be invited to a dynamic program of events, including private viewings and events hosted by CEO Vanessa Gerrans, board members and special guests.
- Gain special behind-the-scenes access to exhibitions and programs.
- Create impact in Ballarat by supporting a major tourist drawcard.

We invite you to direct your annual donation to an area of most interest to you.

Please read on for more information on these areas.

All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



Platon, *People Power – Platon*, installation view, Art Gallery of Ballarat. Ballarat International Foto Biennale 2023. Photo: Garth Oriander.

Fire Country Initiative

Established in 2023, the *Fire Country Initiative* places a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, reconciliation, and self-determination.

The *Fire Country Initiative* aims to reduce disadvantage and provide avenues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and photographers. It facilitates sustained opportunities for Aboriginal-led outcomes: both cultural, through research, sharing and preservation of stories, and economic, through capacity building and industry creation.



Sparking inquisitive minds.

Daring to break down barriers.

Making a difference to the creative soul.



Colleen Raven Strangways (Nharla Photography),
Auntie Jenny Hampton (top); *Auntie Eileen Hoosan* (bottom), 2013.
Courtesy of the artist.

Education

Beyond being a showcase of art, the Ballarat International Foto Biennale is a nexus for artistic collaboration. Masterclasses, competitions, community programs and interactive opportunities have broadened the conversation about photography, connecting local, national and international photographers.

Audience engagement plays an essential role in deepening and broadening our visitors' experiences of the festival and the Ballarat region.

The Biennale has dedicated education programs for children and teens, presenting young visitors with opportunities to come together, have fun and explore their creativity. These programs promote visual literacy, higher-order thinking and communication skills, and are

developed and presented by experienced educators in line with the Victorian Education Curriculum.

In 2026 we launched **GroupFoto** – the Biennale's new youth council. Open to high school students aged 14 to 18 from Ballarat and regional Victoria, **GroupFoto** gives young people a genuine voice in shaping the festival, from helping design the youth photography award to developing and delivering their own events during the September school holidays. It is a leadership opportunity as much as a creative one.

Your contribution to education assists the Biennale in delivering programs to disadvantaged schools, marginalised communities, aged care groups and the next generation of creative thinkers.

“Three generations connecting with photography, connecting with each other, in awe and feeling inspired but also starting conversations and asking questions...”

LAINIEY FOSTER, PHOTOGRAPHER



Erik Johansson, artist floor talk, The Mining Exchange, Ballarat.
Ballarat International Foto Biennale 2023. Photo: Ellen Eustice.

Exhibitions

Each festival includes major international exhibitions alongside professional and emerging photographers from diverse backgrounds in commercial, documentary, fine art and traditional photographic processes.

The 2025 festival, themed *Lifeforce*, brought together over 400 artists across more than 100 venues throughout Ballarat, including Australian-exclusive exhibitions and world premieres from artists including Campbell Addy, Robert Mapplethorpe and Catherine Leroy. The 2023 festival's landmark *People Power – Platon* and *Instant Warhol* exhibitions, and the world-first *Prompted Peculiar International AI Prize*, demonstrate our ambitious, conversation-starting programming.

The Biennale has attracted over 500,000 visitors since the first edition in 2005. Philanthropic support is directed toward all aspects of an exhibition from artwork logistics and new commissions through to accompanying publications, public programs and access initiatives.

“Photography has the potential to unveil our collective essence, offering a global platform to tell important stories and celebrate humanity through love, respect, dignity and compassion. It inspires us to harness our gifts and connections for a better world.”

PLATON

Platon, *People Power – Platon*, installation view, Art Gallery of Ballarat. Ballarat International Foto Biennale 2023. Photo: Garth Oriander.

National Centre for Photography

Bringing the best to Ballarat.

**Taking creative excellence
to the world.**

Braving new horizons.

After 21 years, the Ballarat International Foto Biennale has become something more permanent. Stage One of the National Centre for Photography, housed in the beautifully restored former Union Bank building on Bath Lane, is now complete.

This will be Australia's only dedicated centre for photography. Year-round exhibitions, digital learning, community programs, and a platform for Australian, international, First Nations and emerging artists – all of it available to Ballarat and its visitors every day of the year, not just during festival season.

Stage Two is where your gift makes the difference. It funds the commission program, expands education for young people and regional communities, and deepens the Centre's capacity to bring the world's best photography to Ballarat – and Ballarat's story to the world.

There is also a lasting opportunity to have your name, or a family member's or business name, permanently recognised on one of the public spaces within the Centre. Donors who give \$1,000 or more are permanently recognised on the honour board.

Your support today shapes what the Centre becomes tomorrow.

For more information visit
nationalcentreforphotography.org

“Creative minds rarely stand still. Change is an opportunity for renewal. The National Centre for Photography will provide an important hub for active creativity for all those who have ever stood behind a camera. It will be an exciting addition to individual imagination and to all our artistic endeavours.”

HON STEVE BRACKS AC

National Centre for Photography, 4 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat.
Virtual image courtesy of Kerstin Thompson Architects.
Featuring photograph by Lyndal Irons from her project *Physie*, 2019.





"We are delighted to play a role in bringing important exhibitions from around the world to Ballarat."

THE MCKAY FAMILY, MAJOR SUPPORTERS OF ERIK JOHANSSON, *HOW TO FLY*

Photography Commissions

Supporting photographers and artists is at the heart of our work. Commissions give artists the opportunity to develop new works in response to particular themes, specific sites, or emerging technologies.

Your donation directly supports artists to create ambitious new work for the festival – from large-scale laneway projections and public installations to gallery exhibitions and artist publications – placing you at the centre of the creative journey and enriching the community through photography.

Commissions are awarded across a range of practices and career stages:

Emerging Artist Commissions – New work from early-career photographers, often presented alongside more established names for the first time.

Site-Responsive Works – Ambitious, large-scale works created specifically for Ballarat's laneways, heritage buildings and public spaces.

International Exchange – Commissions that bring international photographers to Ballarat to create new work in dialogue with the region.

Your contribution can be directed toward the commissioning program as a whole, supporting whichever artists and ideas most need it as each festival takes shape.



Leicolhn McKellar, *Guma*, installation view, Art Screen, Art Gallery of Ballarat. Ballarat International Foto Biennale 2025. Photo: Astrid Mulder.

Photo Opportunities

Everyone understands the joy of capturing a perfect moment, especially as smartphone cameras travel with us wherever we go. We work with artists to create sparks of delight in unexpected ways.

In 2023, the National Centre for Photography showcased a spectacular nine metre *Golden Monkey* sculpture by Melbourne artist Lisa Roet. We were delighted to see visitors and residents admiring her work and taking advantage of this playful photo opportunity.

Photo opportunities generate discussion, build a desire to visit Ballarat and place creativity firmly in sight for the local community.

Help us bring photography to life.

Ballarat: A Living Canvas

Ballarat's rich history and vibrant cityscape are the perfect backdrop to the festival. Exhibitions spill into its streets, businesses, and historic spaces, transforming the city into a living gallery.

Join our dedicated and passionate supporters by confirming your gift today and play a significant role in supporting the Ballarat International Foto Biennale as it transforms from a biennial photographic festival to a permanent cultural institution.



Lisa Roet, *Golden Monkey*, installation view, National Centre for Photography. Ballarat International Foto Biennale 2023. Craig Mitchell.

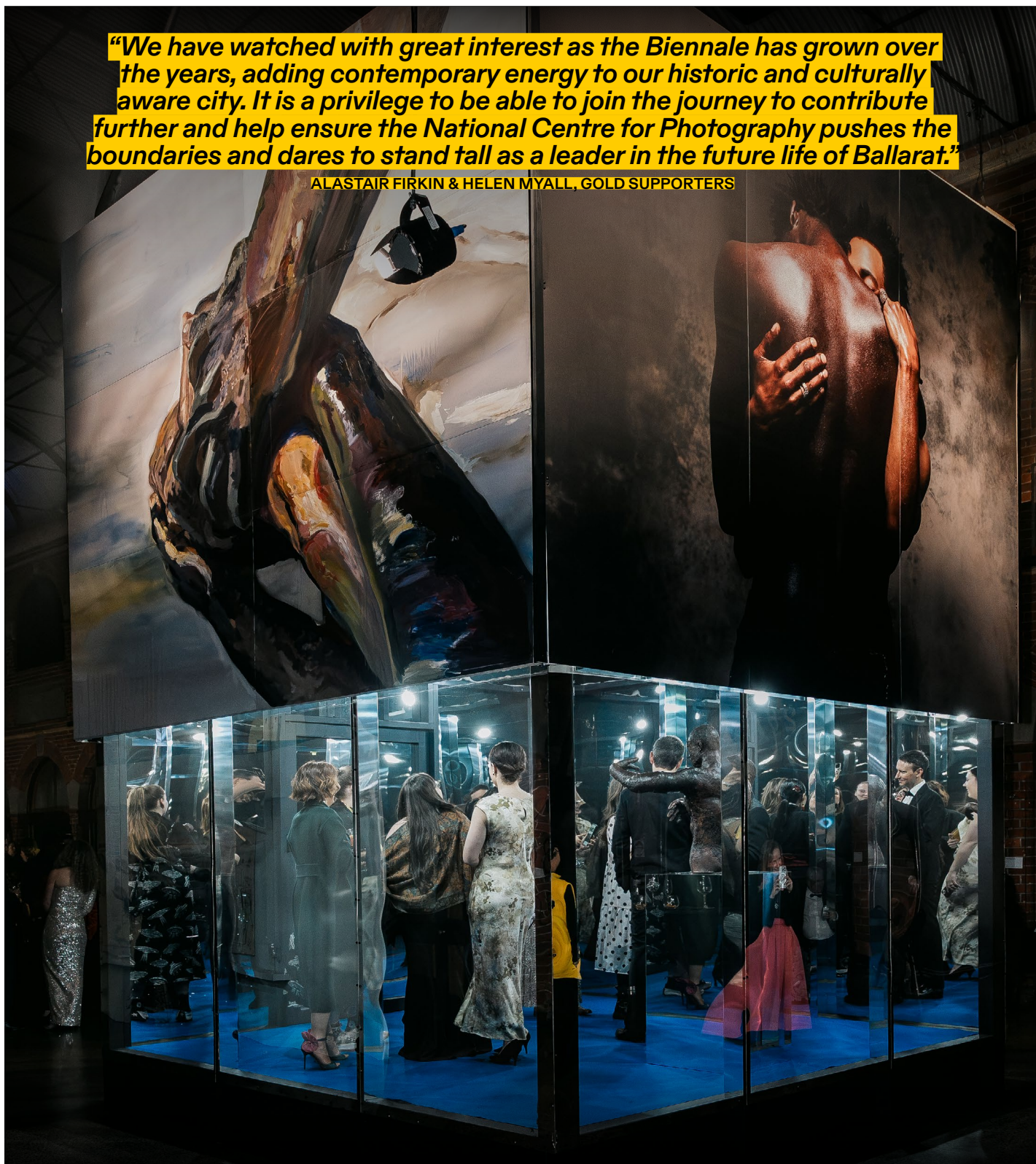
Recognition

Each year, we include donors in a calendar of events and engagement opportunities, placing supporters at the forefront of our activities and initiatives.

Donations are acknowledged through ballaratfoto.org website and in our Annual Report each year.

"We have watched with great interest as the Biennale has grown over the years, adding contemporary energy to our historic and culturally aware city. It is a privilege to be able to join the journey to contribute further and help ensure the National Centre for Photography pushes the boundaries and dares to stand tall as a leader in the future life of Ballarat."

ALASTAIR FIRKIN & HELEN MYALL, GOLD SUPPORTERS



Campbell Addy, *I ♥ Campbell*, installation view, The Mining Exchange, Ballarat.
Ballarat International Foto Biennale 2025. Photo: Astrid Mulder.

"[Our students were] thrilled to take part in Ballarat Foto's Photobook Fair. Not only did they display their photo/artist books but met and connected with many professionals on the day."

JIMMY PASAKOS, FEDERATION UNIVERSITY



Ballarat Foto Kids' Hub
Ballarat International Foto Biennale 2023. Photo: Garth Oriander.

Support Today

An annual gift places you at the forefront of exhibitions, programs and events at the Ballarat International Foto Biennale. You will join a dedicated group of supporters who are passionate about photography from Australia and around the world – and who are helping shape the lead-up to the 2027 Biennale, running 21 August to 17 October 2027.

We invite you to direct your annual donation to the area of most interest to you. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Name

Address

Suburb

State

Postcode

Email

Phone

Donation

I would like to make an annual gift of:

- ☐ \$120 (\$30 per quarter/\$10 per month)
- ☐ \$600 (\$150 per quarter/\$50 per month)
- ☐ \$1,200 (\$300 per quarter/\$100 per month)
- ☐ \$2,500 (\$625 per quarter/\$208 per month)
- ☐ \$5,000 (\$1,250 per quarter/\$416 per month)
- ☐ \$10,000 (\$2,500 per quarter/\$833 per month)
- ☐ \$25,000 (\$6,250 per quarter/\$2083 per month)

I would like to pay this in instalments:
☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly

I would like to direct my donation to the following area (please select one only):

- ☐ Australian Photography
- ☐ Children’s Photography Program
- ☐ Creative Residency Program
- ☐ Digital Innovations Program
- ☐ Education (see p. 6)
- ☐ Emerging Regional Curator
- ☐ Exhibitions (see p. 7)
- ☐ Fire Country Initiative (see p. 5)
- ☐ First Nations Trainee/Apprenticeship
- ☐ Indigenous Photography (see p. 5)
- ☐ National Centre for Photography (see p. 8)
- ☐ Photography Commissions (see p. 10)
- ☐ Photo Opportunities (see p. 11)
- ☐ Women In Photography Program

Payment

☐ I would like to pay by credit card.
Quarterly or monthly payments will be automatically deducted from the following credit card on or around the 15th of the month.

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Name _____

Card No. _____ Exp. date _____ / _____

Signature _____

☐ I would like to pay by **cheque**
Please make cheques payable to the Ballarat International Foto Biennale Public Fund

☐ I will make a **direct deposit**
Bank ANZ
Account name Ballarat International Foto Biennale Public Fund
BSB 013520
Account 408424739
Please quote “**BIFBAG**” and your name on the electronic funds transfer notice.

☐ I am paying in instalments by cheque or direct deposit, please send me a reminder email prior to each instalment due date.

Receipt

Please produce my/our receipt in the name of:

Acknowledgement

Gifts of \$100 and over will be published in the Annual Report each year.
Please acknowledge my/our contribution as:

☐ I/we wish to be anonymous.

Please send this completed form to:
Ballarat International Foto Biennale
PO Box 41
Ballarat Central VIC 3353

Ambassadors

The Hon. Stephen Bracks AC

Nici Cumpston OAM

Warren Ellis

Mayor Cr Tracey Hargreaves

Her Honour Judge Sara Hinchey

Peter Jopling AM KC

Stephen Jurica

Julie Kantor AO

Jeff Moorfoot OAM

Kate Torney OAM

Andrew Walsh AM



The Hon. Stephen Bracks AC meeting visiting artist Campbell Addy, The Mining Exchange, Ballarat. Ballarat International Foto Biennale 2025. Photo: Astrid Mulder.

For more information about the Annual Giving program, or donating to the Ballarat International Foto Biennale, please contact:

Vanessa Gerrans
CEO

Phone +61 413 849 256

Email vanessa@ballaratfoto.org

Web ballaratfoto.org/support-us/donate

Office

Ballarat International Foto Biennale
The Mining Exchange
12 Lydiard Street North
Ballarat Central 3350 VIC

Mail

Ballarat International Foto Biennale
PO Box 41
Ballarat Central VIC 3353

Privacy

The Ballarat International Foto Biennale respects your privacy and will not make your personal information available to other individuals or organisations. All information collected on this form will be used to process donations, provide receipts and to send you further information about the Ballarat International Foto Biennale.

Tax Deductibility

Ballarat International Foto Biennale is a not-for-profit charity, with DGR status (deductible gift recipient). All gifts of \$2 or more made to the Ballarat International Foto Biennale Public Fund are tax deductible. For tax information relevant to your circumstances please seek independent tax advice.
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